

GOD & MONEY

THE GOODNESS OF MONEY

Luke 12:32–34

RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Timothy 6:6–10 | James 1:17 | Psalm 16:1–6

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 4.12.26

SUMMARY

The apostle Paul wrote to his young apprentice, Timothy, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils” (1 Timothy 6:10). It’s a stark warning and might predispose us to believe that there is no good in money. In many ways, the world teaches us that money-making equates to well-being and security. If we believe that anything other than God can bring about well-being and security, we’ve made for ourselves an idol, which in turn leads to all kinds of evils. Money, in itself, is not bad; the love of money—giving allegiance to something only meant for God—is bad.

Money, like everything in the world, is a gift that ultimately comes from God (James 1:17). What we have, or lack, can be directly attributed to the Lord himself. Jesus stressed as much in the passage leading into his declaration, “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (v. 32). Succinctly stated, Jesus tells his children that he knows exactly what they need and he knows precisely when they need it, and he will not leave them lacking. Jesus then urges us to “seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you” (v. 31). In other words, we have access to his abundant provision, but first, we must “seek his kingdom.” Jesus is calling us to reorient our thinking and make the kingdom of God the center of our lives. Everything we have—including our money—should serve one end: the glory of God’s kingdom. When we use anything the Lord entrusts to us to that end, we find that Christ is our greatest treasure; we loosen our grip on idols and we encounter the greatest joy—the only one that “does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys” (v. 33). Glory to God!

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 12:32–34.

Idolatry is not strictly loving something inherently bad, but making something good to be the ultimate. Money is often treated this way and made to be an idol. What other idols—good things made to be the ultimate—are we prone to making?

The Lord doesn’t instruct us to divest ourselves of all our possessions, but he does instruct us to do something with them. What exactly is his instruction regarding our possessions?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.